D.D. Palmer's Second Book
The Chiropractor 1914 – Revealed

JOSEPH FOLEY, DC, FICA, FICPA*

The second book written by D.D. Palmer is an exceptionally rare book. It was printed by his widow in 1914 soon after the founder's death in Los Angeles. While modern reprints exist and are readily available, the book is not nearly as well known to the profession as the founder's first and much larger book printed in 1910. As a book published posthumously, some in the profession have questions about its content and legitimacy as the true work of Dr. Palmer. The author will attempt to authenticate the book as the current and final work on chiropractic by the profession's founder, D.D. Palmer.

Introduction

The Chiropractor by D.D. Palmer was printed by his widow, Mary Hudler Palmer, in 1914, a few months after the founder's death. It was largely unheard within the chiropractic profession until 1969 when Dr. Earl Bebout of the Bebout Chiropractic College in Indianapolis, Ind., first reprinted the book. Until this Bebout reprint, so few copies of the original book existed that it was essentially unknown to the profession that the founder had written a second book. Like the first D.D. Palmer book, it was a very small print run. The 1914 second book likely had even fewer books printed than the 1910 Palmer book. Dr. Dave Palmer had his grandfather's 1910 book reprinted in 1966, so it would be available to the profession.[1]

Dr. Bebout had a unique distribution system for his reprinted Palmer book. He mailed 200 of them to chiropractors with the following letter:

> Dear Doctor: June 16, 1969
>
> This is a most unusual letter, with a most unusual offer. Read it carefully: then..it's up to you.

Daniel David Palmer, father and founder of the science of Chiropractic, passed away in 1913. At this time he was preparing for publication his second book for Chiropractors on the subject of chiropractic. The manuscripts already prepared at the time were in 1914 published and copyrighted by Mary Palmer. It has been a little-known book; most Chiropractors, by far, during the past fifty years have never known of this book until a few weeks ago when we offered the first reprint of this book to chiropractors.

A few years ago we became the owner of two of the originals. About five years ago a chiropractor wrote us pertaining to purchase of one of them. We offered it for $200. He immediately sent us his check.

About three years ago at Lyceum, we met the gentleman for the first time and, "how did you like the book?" His reply, "I I could not get another, I wouldn't take a thousand dollars for it." So, several months ago after a lot of thinking, we had the "Chiropractor" by D.D., 1914 reprinted, word for word by photo -copy process. Nearly one-half of these have been disposed of already.

We have felt and still feel that every Chiropractor who practices chiropractic, who calls himself a Chiropractor should have this book. As he reads the chapters, 20 of them and a little more than one hundred pages, he will appreciate, we believe more than never the bigness of the science of Chiropractic and the bigness of the man who gave us Chiro-

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What I found in my investigation was earlier versions of the 1914 books chapters. D.D. Palmer had a set of lecture notes that he used at the Ratledge school in Los Angeles @1911 and he sold the notes at his lectures between 1911 through the summer of 1913 when he traveled back to Davenport. The early Palmer lecture notes were the same titles & subjects as the chapters that appear in the 1914 book. There is no doubt that these D.D. Palmer lectures notes were the foundation of the 1914 book. The 1914 book was not something written after his death and passed off as being written by Palmer. The article detailing this material was published in the journal of the Association for the History of Chiropractic. Joe Foley FB post 7 Oct 2019

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Our first reprint edition is of deluxe type paper and binding, a very beautiful book to behold and to possess in one's library. One most of you will pick up and read parts many times. We indeed honor the memory of D.D. and appreciate what he has done for chiropractors and suffering mankind.

Our regular price has been and is $8. You may pay cash with order or charge same. Yes, if you don't want to or can't pay $8 then make us a contribution or pay nothing and keep the book if you desire or return it to us if you desire. Postage enclosed herewith.

The above is our way of making sure that all who desire may have as their very own, this book, as a proud memento to the honor and memory of Daniel David Palmer.

This letter and copy of the Chiropractor is being mailed out to 200 Chiropractors as a trial balloon. We are not so much interested in making a nice profit on a few hundred books as we are in placing the books in the hands of great numbers of chiropractors. The book comes to you with no strings attached. The book is yours, now. We would like to hear from as many of you as possible, and we will do our best to answer each letter.

Thanks to each of you and Sincerely
E.R. Bebout, DC

P.S. This letter above has just now been written on our 54th wedding anniversary.

The Chiropractor is a small book at just 115 pages. The binding of the original book had a hand done component consistent with a small run book printed at this time. (Morrison, Tony. R.R. Donnelley & Sons Printing Co., interview with author, December 7, 2012). A few added features of the book, when combined with this binding, makes the book's production costs at the higher end of what would have been available. If the sole purpose of printing the book was to make financial gain, the book could have easily been printed at less cost to make a larger profit per book sold. Based on the book's production quality, profit was not the sole purpose of publishing the book by the Palmer widow.In 1921, B.J. Palmer published volume four of his green book series titled The *Chiropractic Adjuster*. The book was D.D. Palmer's writings that had been sanitized by B.J. to remove what B.J. considered the unpleasant distractions of his father's writings. This book included articles from *The Chiropractor* (1914) along with the founder's *The Science Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic* (1910). Volume four is presented as "A Compilation of the Writings of D.D. Palmer by his son B.J. Palmer."[2] (title page) B.J. says, "My father only wrote two books. Each of these consisted of writings he compiled. The one was printed before his death, the other Mrs. Mary Palmer published immediately after his death." The reason given by B.J. for the production of this book was that "No library should be without D.D. Palmer's books in it. There has been a call for them. This book is the effort to meet that demand."[2] (preface) Both of D.D. Palmer books had limited print runs, making them extremely scarce. B.J.'s volume four was an effort to make his father's writings more available to the profession through this edited version. The author emphasizes that B.J. says D.D.'s widow published the second book immediately after his death. D.D. Palmer died on 20 October 1913 and *The Chiropractor* was copyrighted on 22 January 1914. This would leave three months from the founder's passing for the book's manuscript to be completed and ready to print. This seems like a short, but reasonable period of time for Mary Palmer to complete this task.

The Summer of 1913

D.D. Palmer moved to Los Angeles, Calif., in 1911, soon after publishing his

Palmer, Daniel David, 1842–
The chiropractor, by D. D. Palmer ... Los Angeles, Cal., Press of Beacon light printing company ₍1914₎
2 p. l., 115 p. port. 21cm.
© Jan. 22, 1914; 2c. Feb. 12, 1914; A 362554; Mrs. Daniel David Palmer, Los Angeles. (14-3263)

Image 1. The Chiropractic copyright information for Catalog of Copyright Entries - Library of Congress. Copyright Office

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1910 tome, *The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic (also known as The Chiropractors Adjuster* or merely *The Adjuster)*. Palmer was no longer affiliated with the Portland based D.D. Palmer Chiropractic College after yet another falling out with a school partner, Dr. John LaValley, in the fall of 1910.[3] While living in Los Angeles, Palmer taught at the Ratledge Chiropractic College which was a short distance away from his residence.[4,5] Dr. Ratledge opened his school in 1911 and he was able to convince D.D. Palmer to teach there in 1912.[5]

Palmer and his fifth wife, Mary (Molly), traveled and lectured during the summer of 1913. They left southern California on 17 May and returned 8 September.[7] During the first part of this trip, he was in Oklahoma City and gave four or five lectures over a period of two weeks at the Carver Chiropractic College.[8] The president, Dr. Willard Carver, was both an attorney and chiropractor who had known the Palmer family from before chiropractic was founded. Dr. Carver reports that D.D. Palmer approached two prospective students of his school and offered them a set of twenty written lectures and a diploma for $50.[8] Dr. Carver confronted D.D. Palmer and ended his teaching at the Carver school. Carver reports that D.D. soon left Oklahoma and headed to Davenport.

Longtime D.D. Palmer acquaintance C. Sterling Cooley recounts a similar story in an affidavit dated 14 August 1914.[9 (p, 95-96)] Dr. Cooley reported that while in Medford, Okla., in June 1913, he visited all day with D.D. and Mary Palmer. This visit with Cooley was just a few days before Palmer went to Oklahoma City to teach at Carver. Palmer told Cooley of his plan to sell his book, a set of lecture notes, and a diploma as a way to undermine B.J. and the P.S.C. These two sources corroborate each other's stories that D.D. Palmer had a set of lecture notes prepared for both his lectures at various schools, but also for sale with a diploma.

After leaving Oklahoma, D.D. and Mary visited Davenport for several months.[8,9] During the summer of 1913 there was a minor reconciliation in the Palmer family as the three generations of Palmers shared some family time. The prior time D.D. was reported to have visited Davenport was in 1911.[10] During this 1913 time in Davenport, it has been reported that D.D. Palmer lectured at the Palmer School of Chiropractic (P.S.C.), but was critical of his son, B.J. during those lectures.[9 (p 97)] D.D. also lectured at the Universal Chiropractic College (U.C.C.) and possibly at the Davenport Chiropractic College.[9,10] Those schools were in direct competition for chiropractic students with the B.J. Palmer-operated P.S.C. This certainly did not help the father-son relationship that had been strained for many years. Unfortunately the truce did not last long as D.D. and B.J. got into a disagreement during a chiropractic parade that was to start on top of the hill at the P.S.C. and travel down Brady Street. D.D. and his wife left Davenport and returned to Los Angeles. Within two months the founder was dead of typhoid fever. D.D. Palmer died in Los Angeles on 20 October 1913 after a reported six week illness.[11]

D.D. Palmer lecture notes

In the archives of Palmer College's Davenport campus are a set D.D. Palmer lecture notes.[12] The notes contain twenty lectures that are typed using a period typewriter that appears consistent with D.D. Palmer material. While studying these typed notes, the author recognized the lectures. The lecture titles were the same as articles in the 1914 D.D. Palmer book *The Chiropractor*. These typed lecture titles

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matched twenty of the twenty-four articles in *The Chiropractor*. There were four articles in *The Chiropractor* that were not in these typed notes. It is not known how this specific set of typed notes ended up in the Palmer archives. These 100 year old typed notes are there and no other details are known about who owned them or how they got to Palmer.

As this author compared the actual lectures from the typed notes to the articles printed in *The Chiropractor,* it was obvious that the notes were the basis for the book. The typed notes were written by Palmer after he published his 1910 book. Palmer mentions repeatedly in the notes to refer to specific pages in the *Adjuster* (his 1910 book) for more information on a topic. Other dates listed in the typed notes confirm they were written after the *Adjuster* was published. It is apparent that Palmer was still adding material to these typed notes even into the late summer of 1912. In the article titled "Inflammation," Palmer mentions a 17 August 1912 *Los Angeles Times* newspaper article. At the end of the lecture titled "Nerve Vibrations" is a single line saying, "Notes from one of the lectures of the four weeks course by D.D. Palmer, Los Angeles, California." This line does not appear at the end of this same article printed in *The Chiropractor.*[13 (p 21)] Dr. D.D. Palmer most certainly had a set of lecture notes developed after he published his 1910 book. He was lecturing at the Ratledge Chiropractic College in Los Angeles in 1912 before he left L.A. during the summer of 1913 and he taught short courses at other locations during that trip. It is likely he was even selling a set of notes in 1913 as reported by Carver and Cooley.

Further comparison of the individual lectures from the typed notes to the articles in *The Chiropractor* revealed various levels of revisions. Some articles like "Fever" were completely rewritten from the version in these typed notes. Others, like "Neuritis," "Arteritis." and "Rheumatism" are nearly identical in the typed notes and in the book.

The "Nerve Vibration" article in the book made reference to a newspaper article about Helen Keller hearing the vibration of a violin while visiting Petoskey, Mich. A newspaper article about this Keller experience appeared in the *Santa Ana Register* and other newspapers on 13 August 1913. The addition of this detail into the article would indicate that the "Nerve Vibration" article from the typed notes was updated sometime after 13 August 1913, about two months before D.D. Palmer died.

Boston, Mass., Morning Journal.

August 13. 1913.

NOTED MUTE CAN HEAR MUSIC NOW

Helen Keller Holds Teeth Against Violin and Feels Vibrations.

Petoskey, Mich., Aug. 12.—Vibrations from a violin string, communicated through her teeth, which were held against the bridge of the instrument, today conveyed to Miss Helen Keller, the famous deaf, dumb and blind girl, the first musical sound that she has ever heard.

"It is like the voices of singing angels," she told her teacher, Mrs. John Macy, after she had caught the strains.

Miss Keller was nearly exhausted from the excitement incident to her new experience. The astonishment she showed when the melody was carried to her brain was most gratifying to Mrs. Macy and to Professor Franz Kohler of the Oberlin Conservatory, who played for her.

Miss Keller held her teeth firmly against the scroll while Professor Kohler played strains of a St. Saens composition on his violin, an instrument which possesses remarkable sweetness of tone. He used both the high and low registers.

After the experiment, Professor Kohler declared that although Miss Keller's ear drums are useless, she had undoubtedly caught the strains.

Image 2. Boston Morning Journal 13 August 1913 article about Helen Keller in Petoskey, MI

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Overall, nearly every article from the typed notes had noticeable additions in material and ideas when compared to the article written in *The Chiropractor*. There was only a small amount of content removed from the typed notes before being printed in the book. To this author, it is without question that the typed notes were added to and refined by D.D. Palmer. The fact that the typed notes were revised before being printed in *The Chiropractor* would imply these were typed by D.D. Palmer earlier, possibly in the fall of 1912 for use while teaching at the Ratledge school, rather than later in 1913 for his summer tour.

D.D. Palmer had been back in L.A for over a week when he wrote to J.B. Olsen on 17 September 1913:

> Los Angeles, Cal., 420 W Vernon Ave
> J.B. Olson, D.C.--
>
> Yours of 4/19/13 came duly to hand, was taken with us East. We left here on May 17th and returned on Sep 8th. We made the trip one of sight seeing, one of seeing friends and relatives, one of chiropractic lectures and one of extreme hot weather for the three months out of the 3 and 1/2 we were gone in Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.
>
> We were pleased to learn that Jacob is doing well. We frequently hear from Armstrong, but never from Marie or Graham. If you know their address, please give it in your next.
>
> We are having it extremely hot here today, 107 in the shade, but we do not have to work in the shade.
>
> I gave 22 lectures at the U.C.C. while in Davenport, for $220. I nearly made expenses while I was gone. The last trip out was on an excursion to Keokuk to see the Great Dam. On the return I cured a man of sun stroke by one thrust on the 5th dorsal. That is what I call definite, specific, scientific chiropractic, which is unknown to 99 out of a 100 chiropractors. My lectures have been increased, the last one is on "The Normal and Abnormal Movements of the Vertebral Column." I show therein that displacements increase the size of the foramina.
>
> Look to the first two lines of your card and correct. Chiropractic is the Science (knowledge) of the principles which compose the scientific portion of chiropractic. Chiropractic is divided into three grand divisions, the Science, the Art, and the Philosophy. The Art is subdivided in Palpation, nerve-tracing and adjusting. Sixth and 7th lines. Nerves are stretched -- tension my boy causes 99 per cent of all diseases. Otherwise your card is up to date, abreast of the times. Some day I am going to get up a card for practitioners, also a booklet.
>
> I have quite a lengthy lecture, in fact it will take two evenings to give it.
>
> Truly, D.D. Palmer
>
> P.S. At Davenport I offered an adjuster to the one who would give the greatest number of chiropractic principles. 221 were given[7]

This letter to Olsen was written after D.D. Palmer had returned to L.A. from his summer of 1913 travels. There are several bits of information contained in this letter that are relevant to this topic. D.D. has added another lecture to his notes, "The Normal and Abnormal Movements of the Vertebral Column." This lecture was one of the four lectures printed in the book, but not contained in the typed notes found at Palmer College. D.D.'s addition of this new lecture supports the author's premises that the typed notes found at Palmer were early versions of the lectures, likely created before this summer 1913 tour. We can now document that twenty-one of the twenty-four articles contained in *The Chiropractor* were the up-to-date works of D.D. Palmer. Only three articles in the book are not documented in some manner. In this letter, Palmer also states he gave twenty-two lectures at the U.C.C. in Davenport. D.D. Palmer was in Davenport for an extended period if he delivered twenty-two lectures at the U.C.C. We do not know which twenty-two lectures he presented. In the last line of the letter, D.D. mentions giving away an *Adjuster* during his lecture at the U.C.C. During the summer of 1913, D.D. Palmer still had copies of his 1910 book available. This supports the 1914 affidavit by Cooley that D.D. was selling his book, a set of

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Contents of *The Chiropractor* 1914	Are early versions documented?
The Moral and Religious Duty of a Chiropractor	no earlier version found - revised summer 1913
Chiropractic a Science, an Art and the Philosophy thereof	early version in typed notes
Nerve Vibration	early version in typed notes - revised Aug 1913
A Brief Review	early version in typed notes
Inflammation	early version in typed notes
Vertebral Luxations	early version in typed notes
Health, Disease, Life and Death	early version in typed notes
Rachitis or Rickets	early version in typed notes
Biology	early version in typed notes
Function	early version in typed notes
Vertebral Adjusting	early version in typed notes
Center Place and Second Center Place	early version in typed notes
The Nervous System	early version in typed notes
Neuritis, Arteritis and Rheumatism	early version in typed notes
Fever	early version in typed notes
Constipation and Costiveness	no earlier version found
Trauma, Toxine and Auto-Suggestion	early version in typed notes
Catarrh	early version in typed notes
Impulse	early version in typed notes
The Normal and Abnormal Movements of the Vertebral column	new article written in 1913
Spinal Pathogenesis	early version in typed notes
Palpation and Nerve Tracing	early version in typed notes
Bones and Nerves	early version in typed notes
Pyorrhea Alverolaris	no earlier version found

Chart 1. Contents of The Chiropractor

notes and a diploma in Oklahoma prior to going on to Davenport.

The three articles that are in the book and are not accounted for are "Constipation and Costiveness," "Pyorrea Alveolaris," and "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor." Only one of these articles, "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor," is controversial. This single article is the most provocative of all the Palmer writings.

The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor

This author is choosing not to investigate or elaborate on the specific details of a religion for chiropractors or a chiropractor's moral duties, as presented by D.D. Palmer in his article. Whether someone agrees, disagrees, is happy, or is upset by the founder's writing on this subject does not change the details presented. The Moral article appears in the 1914 book and the author is attempting to determine whether it fits with D.D. Palmer's ideas and activities prior to his death.

"The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" is the very first article in *The Chiropractor*. It is within this article that D.D. Palmer makes his most assertive statement that there is a religion of chiropractors. The subject of chiropractic as a religion was highly controversial within the profession in D.D.'s time and remains so today.

D.D. opens "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" article with this paragraph:

> The following has been sharply criticized by a few Chiropractors, but not as severely, nor by as many as was my announcement of the moving of joint, by hand. A part of this criticism was based upon rival jealousy, the balance because of wrong impressions. That which was on account of a lack of informa-

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> tion discontinued as soon as the would-be critics were well informed. I have received greater applause at the close of the following lecture from my classes than from any other. Every important chiropractic idea that I have advanced has been bitterly assailed, yet, although somewhat discouraged at times, I have not turned from that which I knew was correct.[13 (p 1)]

From this opening, it is evident that D.D. has delivered this lecture and has received support of the idea and he acknowledges criticisms from some. What is important is that D.D. is stating he has taught this lecture before. This article is not something he had just started working on, was considering as an option, or was a discarded idea. This opening is consistent with the idea that D.D. Palmer was preparing to print a second book and this lecture had been delivered to chiropractors by him prior to his death.

The typed notes from the Palmer archives cannot be used to substantiate "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" article as they had the other twenty articles as it was not contained therein.

As one studies the known D.D. Palmer writings, this religious direction does not seem out of character. As far back as the fall 1890, while being cross-examined in court, D.D. Palmer was asked where he got his license to practice. His response was "it came from the court of high heaven."[14] In 1896, D.D. Palmer writes, "Every man and every woman who *can cure* is divinely ordained to heal, and their duty to God and humanity demands that they do it. The license of all such is a natural license, which no legislature nor bigoted board of medical monopolists may revoke."[15] This idea is consistent with the "moral duty" idea written eighteen years later in the 1914 book.

In the late spring of 1911, D.D. Palmer wrote to Dr. P.W. Johnson, a former student practicing in Kansas. At the time of Palmer's letter, Johnson was on trial for practicing medicine without a license. He was acquitted on the charge in a 1910 trial, but the county appealed the case to a higher court. Palmer wrote this letter to Johnson the day before he was found guilty on 5 May 1911 in this second trial.[16] The author notes that Dr. Johnson was a 1908 graduate of the founder and he had purchased Dr. Palmer's 1910 book.[1] In this 4 May 1911 letter, D.D. talks about chiropractic as a religion and he even outlines the foundation he has laid to substantiate the premise.

D. D. PALMER
SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC
PERSONALLY CONDUCTED BY THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF CHIROPRACTIC, DEVELOPED ITS PHILOSOPHY, ORIGINATED AND FOUNDED THE SCIENCE AND ART OF CORRECTING ABNORMAL FUNCTIONS BY HAND-ADJUSTING, USING THE VERTEBRAL PROCESSES AS LEVERS.

D.D. PALMER gave CHIROPRACTIC to the WORLD.

Santa Barbara, Cal.

May 4, 1911

P.W. Johnson, D.C.;

Yours of April 26th at hand. It contains an interesting and financial question, one which I think Old Dad holds the key of. Stop right now and read two sections in this enclosed circular, on pages 2 and 8 marked, and see if you cannot grasp the way out, that which I see that we are coming to. I want you to study those two items marked. The same ideas are in my book, altho not put out quite so plain as found in these two sections.

I occupy in chiropractic a similar position as did Mrs. Eddy in Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy claimed to receive her ideas from the other world and so do I. She founded theron a religion, so may I. I am THE ONLY ONE IN CHIROPRACTIC WHOCAN DO SO.

Yes, Old Dad always has something new to give to his followers. I have much new written for another edition, when this one is sold. It is STRANGE TO ME WHY EVERY

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CHIROPRACTOR DOES NOT WANT A COPY OF MY BOOK.

You write as tho you did not know of my change of location. I lived in this city nine years ago and have always had a hankering for its climate, fruits and flowers. I can edit, publish and place my book on the market as well here as elsewhere. I have not been teaching or practicing since leaving Portland, but have today placed an ad in the city paper, of which I am sending you a copy, and will instruct by book or in person as the way opens.

I have been and continue to watch your rights with "The American Octopus." I want you to STUDY the religious move.

California has an organization with Miss Michelson as our attorney.

Please drop me a few lines as soon as your trial is over, so that I may know how matters proceed. You ask, what I think will be the final outcome of our law getting. It will be that we will have to build a boat similar to Christian Science and hoist a religious flag. I have received chiropractic from the other world, similar as did Mrs. Eddy. No other one has laid claim to that, NOT EVEN B.J.

Exemption clauses instead of chiro laws by all means, and LET THAT EXEMPTION BE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICEOUR RELIGION. But we must have a religious head, one who is the founder, as did Christ, Mohamed, Jo. Smith, Mrs. Eddy, Martin Luther and other who have founded religions. I am the fountain head. I am the founder of chiropractic in its science, in its art, in its philosophy and in its religious phase. Now, if chiropractors desire to claim me as their head, their leader, the way is clear. My writings have been gradually steering in that direction until now it is time to assume that we have the same right to as has Christian Scientists. Oregon is free to Chiropractors. California gives Chiropractors only one chance, that of practicing our religion.

The protective policy of the U.C.A. is O.K., but that of religion is far better. The latter can only be assumed by having a leader, a head, a person who has received chiropractic as a science, as an art, as a philosophy and as a religion. Do you catch on?

The policy of the U.C.A. is the best that B.J. can be at the head of, BUT THE RELIGIOUS MOVE IS FAR BETTER, but we must incorporate under the man who received the principles of chiropractic from the other world, who wrote the book of all chiropractic books, who today has much new matter, valuable, which is not contained in that book. If you will watch my book closely as you read, you will find it has a religion contained in it, altho I do not so name it. If either of the Davenport schools would take advantage of practicing our religion founded by D.D. Palmer, it will make the way of chiropractic as easy as it was for the S.C.'s.

I have given you some special hints on the question which is uppermost in your mind, will you please give it consideration -- never mind if it is new.

Truly, (Signed)D.D. Palmer[17]

The author emphasizes the following points from this 1911 letter:

- In May 1911, D.D. was in Santa Barbra, he was not teaching but was planning to do so again.
- D.D. included a "circular" with this letter to Johnson and instructed Johnson to look at items marked on page 2 & 8 and "see if you cannot grasp the way out."

It is possible that the circular D.D. mentions is a early draft of the lecture "The Moral and Religious Duties of the Chiropractor." When Keating transcribed this letter found in the Palmer archives, he made no mention of a companion document, so there is no way to know what circular D.D. enclosed to Johnson. We do know D.D. sent Johnson something about religion in addition to the letter; it was at least eight pages and it had something to do with the direction chiropractic was heading and the "way out" of Johnson's situation. An early draft of "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" fits these specifications.

- D.D. had planned another book to be done after he sold the remaining copies of his 1910 *Adjuster*.
- He claimed he received chiropractic from the "other world," similar to other

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religions and their prophets - Jesus, Mohammad, Joseph Smith, etc.

D.D. states his 1910 *Adjuster* had religious content in it but it was not so plain. This quote from Palmer's 1910 book is one clear example of such: "Innate Intelligence embodies the religious plank of the foundation of chiropractic. I am the man who hewed out that plank and fitted it in the framework of chiropractic."[18 (p 642)] Palmer is referring to a specific article titled "Innate Intelligence" that he wrote sometime before December 1904. The article was sold as an individual article on chiropractic by the Palmers beginning in March 1905.[19] He states, "Old Dad always has something new for his "followers." Palmer's use of "followers" in this context is used as if he is the leader of a religious movement.

- He is watching the "The American Octopus" and the California (chiropractic) group has an attorney.

This indicates that D.D. Palmer is actively following the medical community and chiropractic legal activity in the state of California. The California Chiropractic organization has legal counsel.

Dates and California legislation relevant to the Moral and Religious Duty article

"The Moral and Religious Duty" article contains several dates that are useful. A 25 May 1911 *Los Angeles Times* article is mentioned which indicates D.D. was working on this article as early as May 1911.This is consistent with the letter to Johnson which was also in May of 1911.

Another date mentioned in the article is "The new law of 1913 of the state of California..."[13 (p 1)] This would indicate that D.D. Palmer added material to his article in 1913. The author searched California legislation for 1913. Senate Bill 813 was introduced into the California Legislature on 27 January 1913.[20 (p 283)] Officially titled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act for the regulation of the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathy, and other systems or modes of treating the sick or afflicted, in the State of California.'" A component of this bill was the regulation of drugless practitioners in California, certainly a topic of interest to D.D. Palmer and the California Chiropractic organization. Section 22 of that Bill reads:

> Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit....Nor shall this Act be construed so as to discriminate against any particular school of medicine or surgery, or any other treatment, not to regulate, prohibit or apply to, any kind of treatment by prayer, not to interfere in any way with the practice of religion.

Senate Bill 813 passed the California legislature on 11 May 1913 and was approved by the Governor on 2 June 1913.[20,21] D.D. Palmer left southern California on 17 May 1913.

D.D. Palmer, the Ratledge School at which he taught, and the California chiropractic group would all be talking about and following this legislation over the four month legislative session. Based on this, the author concludes that D.D. Palmer added material to his "Moral and Religious Duty" article in the spring of 1913, before he left for his trip east on 17 May 1913, or he added it when he arrived back in California after his trip in 8 September 1913. Either way, this is evidence that the article was updated in 1913.

In concluding this section on the "Moral" article, the author acknowledges that some in the profession will claim this article may not be the legitimate work of D.D. Palmer.[22 (p 58)] Speculation is that the Mary Palmer wrote it, or it was an idea that D.D. was experimenting with and he had not completed, or maybe he had even discarded it. The 1914 book was copyrighted

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three months after the founder's death. Mary Palmer would have had a very short period to write an original article, with a reference dating back to 1911 and specific knowledge of California legislation in 1913. There are no other known chiropractic writings of Mrs. D.D. Palmer. There is not a single known article ever printed before or after her husband's death. To this author, this idea of Mary Palmer writing this article is unimaginable. It is just not plausible that after D.D. Palmer passed, Mary would write such a comprehensive, insightful, original article on the religion of chiropractors when she never wrote anything on chiropractic prior and never wrote anything after.

In addition, there are no obvious suspects that could have helped her write about the religion of chiropractors. She associated with a few in the profession after D.D.'s death as charges of patricide resulting from the parade events were brought against B.J.; Joy Loban and Sol Long who assisted the estate of D.D. Palmer in suing B.J. did not espouse the same religious ideas that were outlined in the "Morals" article. What is plausible is Mary Palmer completed the printing of a book that her husband had initiated or had plans to initiate; using the current version of articles he had written and revised before he died.

The "Other World" source of Chiropractic

Many in the profession question the D.D. Palmer comments about learning the principle of chiropractic from the spirit of Dr. Jim Atkinson. In his writings, D.D. Palmer says Dr. Jim Atkinson was a doctor in Davenport fifty years prior who tried unsuccessfully to promote the ideas of chiropractic.[18 (p 11)] The world was not ready for those ideas and Atkinson failed. Palmer portrays Atkinson as a long dead spirit that has communicated to him often from the "other side" and Atkinson is the source of his chiropractic ideas. In his 1911 letter to Johnson, Palmer sites this "other world" knowledge as the basis for his religious claim.

Many have searched for a Dr. Jim Atkinson and no information that he actually existed has ever been found in the historical record. Various theories have been presented over the years to explain Palmer's written comments about Dr. Atkinson.[23] The first time D.D. Palmer mentions Dr. Atkinson appears to be the February 1906 issue of the Palmer monthly publication also titled *The Chiropractor*. In the article titled "Immortality," D.D. writes about an incident when Villa, his fourth wife, was in a coma. Within this paragraph D.D. Palmer states that he learned chiropractic principles from the deceased Dr. Jim Atkinson. The line pertaining to Dr. Atkinson seems oddly placed in this paragraph and article, but is there really a good way to bring up the details of a channeled message from a deceased spirit? Generally stated, all of Palmer's writings are erratic and difficult to follow at times. This specific article is no exception, so to Palmer maybe this was a perfectly appropriate and reasonable time to bring up this topic.

> In the state, or condition, the soul, spirit, or innate has passed out of and away from the body, existing separate and distant from its earthly dwelling. Such was the condition often of my [now] deceased wife. On one occasion she laid for nineteen hours apparently dead, pronounced so by three physicians. Four hours before the appointed funeral, life was observed by moisture on a mirror, which had been laid on her face. The glass is four by five inches, was carried in the rebellion by a union soldier, and now hangs over my desk. She was returned to her earthly existence by Dr. Jim Atkinson, deceased, who, during his life was thot (sic) of as a crank. He claims the credit of teaching me the principles of the science, Chiropractic. He tells me that he advocated the same idea of

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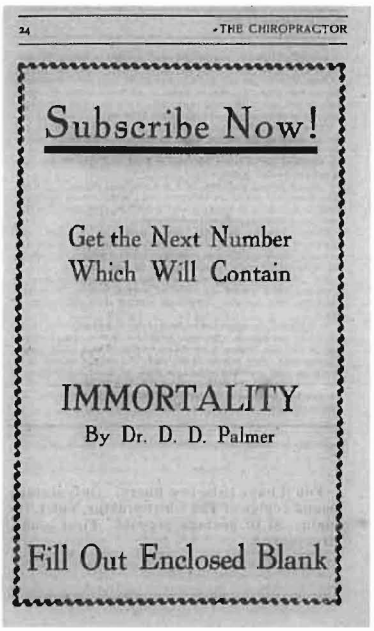
disease, as chiropractic in putting forth, but humanity were not then ready to receive them.[24]

It is interesting to note that the time this article was published in *The Chiropractor*, February 1906, D.D. was about to go on trial in Davenport for practicing medicine without a license. He had been arrested in late October of 1905 and the trial had several continuances into the spring 1906. This was an exceptionally busy time for D.D. Palmer. The few months after his arrest and before the trial, brought significant personal challenges for D.D. Palmer beside just the looming trial. His fourth wife, Villa, died in November 1905 of a morphine overdose and Palmer married his fifth wife, Mary (Molly), in January 1906. The December issue of *The Chiropractor* announced that the next (January) issue would contain "Immortality" by D.D. Palmer.[25] The announcement of the birth of his grandson, Daniel David Palmer II in the January issue was used to account for the lack of "immortality" appearing in that issue as promised.[26] It is not known when D.D. Palmer started, finished or possibly revised this pivotal article.


24 THE CHIROPRACTOR

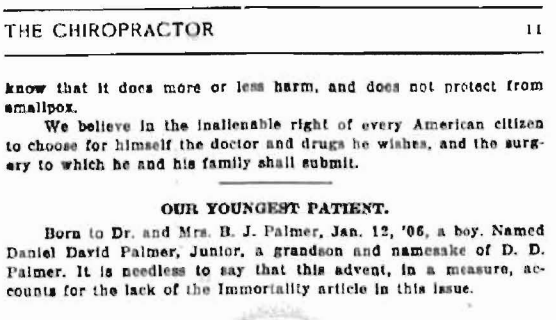
Subscribe Now!

Get the Next Number
Which Will Contain

IMMORTALITY
By Dr. D. D. Palmer

Fill Out Enclosed Blank

Image 3. "Immortality" is announced in the December issue of *The Chiropractor*. This article is the first time Dr. Jim Atkinson is mentioned by D.D. Palmer.


THE CHIROPRACTOR 11

know that it does more or less harm, and does not protect from smallpox.

We believe in the inalienable right of every American citizen to choose for himself the doctor and drugs he wishes, and the surgery to which he and his family shall submit.

OUR YOUNGEST PATIENT.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Palmer, Jan. 12, '06, a boy. Named Daniel David Palmer, Junior, a grandson and namesake of D. D. Palmer. It is needless to say that this advent, in a measure, accounts for the lack of the Immortality article in this issue.

Image 4. "Immortality" is delayed officially by the birth of Dave Palmer in the January issue of *The Chiropractor*.

In the March 1906 trial, D.D. was found guilty in that case and sentenced to $350 fine or time served in jail. Palmer ultimately served 23 days before his new wife paid the fine.[4 (p 113)] It is possible that this article "Immortality," which mentions Dr. Atkinson for the first time, was the beginning of a planned future religious defense by D.D. Palmer.

Palmer had been involved with several trials related to his practice of magnetic and later chiropractic beginning in 1890. He was no stranger to the courtroom having been personally on trial in Iowa, Illinois, and California. He did well in the early trials, but later some of his wins were on court technicalities.[27] He was aware of the increased number of chiropractors going to trial for practicing medicine without a license. There were several other chiropractic trials in 1905 in Minnesota and Wisconsin that D.D. Palmer was following or testified in as a witness with mixed results. The legal status of his chiropractic was more and more in question and Palmer knew it. It is possible he was beginning to develop a new legal defense back in early 1906 with these Dr. Atkinson comments.

The next issue of *The Chiropractor* came after the trial and is called the "Jail

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Issue," covering April and May 1906. The issue covers details of the trial and D.D. Palmer serving his sentence in the Scott County jail. This issue of *The Chiropractor* was produced while D.D. Palmer was incarcerated. In various statements, articles and letters, D.D. frequently mentions groups in history that were persecuted similar to him and chiropractic.[28] It is a theme throughout the issue. Palmer was playing the martyr. Most of the groups mentioned are religious groups like the Christians, Christian Scientists, Salvation Army and Dowieism. The Mormons and the killing of Joseph Smith are also brought up several times.

On his fourth day in jail, Palmer writes a letter to S.M. Langworthy. Much of the letter is about trial details and the idea that if all chiropractors stick together and do as he has done, chiropractic will be left alone. The close of the letter again shows us that Palmer is aware of other groups that were challenged. Historically, we know these two groups Palmer mentions were successful with religious protection. In 1906, D.D. Palmer is keenly aware of the idea of religious protection under the law. In this letter to Langworthy, it is unknown what Palmer meant when he asks, "Will Chiropractors do the same?"[28 (p 24)] Will chiropractors win their cause or will they turn to religious protection as other groups have done?

> The Salvation Army, Christian Scientists and others have won out by doing just as I am doing. Will Chiropractors do the same?
>
> I remain as ever, the Discoverer and Developer of the science of Chiropractic, and am ready to stand by it.
>
> This is the first letter written from my new office, which is furnished me by the county. I have given two adjustments, which gave relief, must not say "cure or heal" for the State board has a copyright on that.

In his 1910 book, D.D. again mentions his learning chiropractic principles from the spirit of Jim Atkinson.[18 (p 847)] Palmer brings up the topic of Dr. Atkinson in the preface of the book.[18 (p 11)] A few months after releasing his book, Palmer sends the letter to Johnson who was fighting an active legal challenge in court, describing his religious protection ideas. In that letter, D.D. comments that the U.C.A. protective system that B.J. led was one way to deal with the problem of chiropractors getting arrested, but his method of a religion was far better. B.J. and the U.C.A. was advocating going to court and fighting on the grounds that chiropractic was different than the practice of medicine.

It is entirely possible that D.D. Palmer genuinely and honestly believed that a spirit spoke to him and he learned from it. D.D. was a spiritualist and this idea is consistent with his beliefs. Whether his religious plank was initially planned and contrived beginning in 1906 or based entirely on the facts as D.D's spiritualist mind believed does not make any difference to this topic. It is obvious that by 1911, D.D. had laid a foundation in his writing to claim an "other world" source for his knowledge of chiropractic and he was preparing to present the religion of chiropractors. D.D. Palmer again mentions Dr. Jim Atkinson in the 1914 book as part of his "Moral and Religious Duty" article.[13 (p 5)] The "Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" was consistent with his thought and actions during the last years of his life.

Final thoughts

The article, "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" is the next logical step for D.D. Palmer. He is getting older and his position within the profession has been marginalized, mainly by his own actions. He repeatedly enters into partnerships in one failed chiropractic school after another. After initially leaving the Daven-

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port Palmer school in 1902, the founder opens or is affiliated with at least six different schools over the next ten years. His 1910 book had disappointing sales and he has alienated all of the profession's leaders.[1 (p 38)] In 1913, D.D Palmer is no longer the leader of the profession.[28]

On 7 April 1907, D.D. Palmer wrote to his son, B.J. from Medford, Okla., on the Palmer grocery letterhead. During this period, D.D. had essentially left the profession and was running a grocery store in Oklahoma. He is exceptionally bitter and angry about the circumstances surrounding his selling of the Palmer School to B.J., leaving Davenport and chiropractic. D.D. wrote this line to B.J.:

> A.T. Still is honored with a substantial every month, while I have to work for a living, not a $ coming from that which I discovered, that which has made life a luxury to you and others, but instead I was worth just what they could get out of me.[29]

D.D. Palmer is aware that Dr. A.T. Still is being supported by the profession he founded. Things were different in the chiropractic profession. D.D. Palmer's only income from discovering chiropractic was through actual patient care or teaching of the profession either in person or by selling his book or notes. We have previously noted his school endeavors were consistent failures.

Several years later, the situation had not improved. As the discoverer of chiropractic, he still was not being supported by the profession. At this point in his life merely being the founder of chiropractic may not have been enough for D.D. Palmer. By creating a religion, D.D. Palmer becomes the leader of the religion of chiropractors. Palmer would be the new religion's prophet, similar to Jesus, Mohammad and Joseph Smith. Going from discoverer or founder to religious prophet does sound like an upgrade in status for D.D. Palmer. Palmer died before his planned religion of chiropractors was fully laid out. It is unknown if there would be financial support for the new religion's prophet or if there would be any "followers" of this new religion.

Conclusion

From the material reviewed for this article, the author is convinced that D.D. Palmer had thought about, wrote about, and planned over several years to make a religion of chiropractors. He placed comments about Dr. Jim Atkinson in his writings and now it is easier to see a possible reason why Palmer mentioned Atkinson. It is unlikely that this religion plan was solely based on legal protection, but that was certainly a major part of his intent. D.D. Palmer was a complex man and he did not shy away from discussing the spiritual component of chiropractic. His 1910 book contains a statement that there is a religious plank in the foundation of chiropractic. "The Moral and Religious Duty of the Chiropractor" article published after his death is completely consistent with what D.D. Palmer had previously written.[30]

Based on the typed notes in the Palmer archives and the collaborating information present, it is obvious that twenty-two of the twenty-four articles were revised and updated by D.D. Palmer to be published as his second book. The two other non-controversial articles in the book also fit the work of D.D. Palmer, as there is no compelling reason for anyone to misrepresent them. The material in *The Chiropractor* did not consist of old notes or ideas that D.D. Palmer had discarded. What the author has revealed during his investigation indicates just the opposite. The articles were either newly written or recently revised from previous versions. It is entirely plausible that D.D. had begun the process of putting his notes together for his

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second book prior to his death. We find no evidence that someone else wrote material and presented it as the work of D.D. Palmer. The 1914 posthumously published *The Chiropractor* appears to be the updated, last and final thoughts of the founder at the time of his death.

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